GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:116
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
PER CAPITA FOODGRAIN
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability of foodgrains is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the per capita availability of wheat, rice, pulses, sugarcane, cotton during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the country has become dependent/is likely to become dependent on import in order to meet its domestic requirement of the said products; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 116 DUE FOR REPLY ON 1ST AUGUST, 2005.

(a)&(b): There have been fluctuations in per capita availability of foodgrains due to fluctuations in foodgrains production caused by abnormal variations in weather conditions. The figures of net per capita availability of foodgrains during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are given below. In the case of sugarcane and cotton which are basically raw materials, figures of per capita availability are not compiled. The figures of per capita availability of foodgrains given in the table have been worked out at the all India level on the basis of net production, after adjusting for seed, feed and wastage, estimated at 12.5% of gross production, net export and change in stocks.

Per Capita Net Availability of Wheat, Rice, Pulses and Foodgrains

(Kg. per year)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Pulses	Foodgrains
2001-02	60.8	83.5	12.9	180.4
2002-03	65.8	66.2	10.6	159.7
2003-04	59.2	71.1	13.1	169.1

Note : Foodgrains include coarse cereals also.

As may be seen from the figures given above, though the net per capita availability of foodgrains declined from 180.4 kilograms per year in 2001-02 to 159.7 kilograms per year in 2002-03, it increased to 169.1 kilograms per year in 2003-04. While there was significant increase in foodgrains production to 212.85 million tonnes in 2001-02, the severe drought of 2002 that adversely affected several States in the country led to a sharp decline in foodgrains production to 174.77 million tonnes in 2002-03, which contributed to the decline in per capita availability of foodgrains in the country in 2002-03. With favorable rainfall, production revived, which is reflected in the increase in per capita availability in 2003-04.

(c)&(d): The country is not dependent on imports for rice and wheat. In fact, India continues to be a net exporter of rice and wheat. However, India is a net importer of pulses in view of the need to bridge domestic demand-supply gap. In the case of sugar India`s import is mostly meant to contribute to the economic activity and value addition through exports. As regards cotton, production levels

are adequate to meet our domestic demand.

In order to ensure remunerative prices and encourage farmers to raise production and productivity of major agricultural commodities, including foodgrains, to cope with increase in demand from the growing population, the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) every year. Besides, with a view to raising overall production of agricultural commodities, including foodgrains, the Government have identified the following areas for focused and priority attention.

? Raising productivity levels of all crops/commodities.
? Doubling Rural Credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rate;
? Dry Land Farming, promotion of Horticulture production and Water Management;
? Creation of additional irrigation facilities;
? Marketing support to farmer`s produce for ensuring fair and remunerative prices;
? Assistance to the farmers under various agricultural and horticultural production programmes;
? Insurance of crops against production loss due to natural calamities.